

# PLAN FOR SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

## REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF A LOCAL PLAN

1. **Policies for Mitigation Strategies:** Plan for incorporating eight different mitigation strategies included in current CDC guidance.
2. **Continuity of Services:** Plan to address academic and non-academic services for students and staff.
3. **Periodic Review:** Review at least every 6 months through September 30, 2023 and revise plan as appropriate.
4. **Public Input:** Seek public input and incorporate revisions as necessary.

DEADLINE: June 24, 2021 (**UPDATED August 20, 2021**)

DIRECTIONS: Post the plan to the school or district website and then email that link (URL) to: [continuityplan@education.ohio.gov](mailto:continuityplan@education.ohio.gov)

RESOURCES:

[ODE American Rescue Plan: Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans](#)

[CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#)

**School District: Akron City School District**

**District Contact: (Name) Christine Fowler Mack (Title): Superintendent**

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## POLICIES FOR INCORPORATING MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Describe to what extent the following policies have been adopted to incorporate the following [CDC Mitigation Strategies](#) and provide a description of any policies being implemented:: Most of these items are addressed in the [Faculty Handbook](#) and CDC Guidelines for K-12 Schools still in effect.

### Policies that have been revised or adopted to address the CDC Mitigation Strategies:

- Universal and correct wearing of masks: - As of June 14, 2021 the district is following the CDC guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated persons. Revision of ASP Board Policies 3215, 4216, 5511 related to staff and student dress for use of facial coverings, 8420 - Emergency Situations at Schools, and adopted new Board Policy 8450.01 - Protective Facial Coverings during Pandemic/Epidemic Events October 12, 2020. Monitoring of all policies will continue on a regular basis going forward until at least September 2023.

### In Practice and in will continue going forward for below:

- Physical distancing - Under Health and Safety Section in the Faculty Handbook
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette - Under Health and Safety Section in Faculty Handbook
- Cleaning and maintaining health facilities, including improving ventilation - Under Rooms and Spaces in the Faculty Handbook
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state and local health departments Some info under Health Department Guidance in the Faculty Handbook
- Diagnostic and screening testing -

Students/staff reporting to school clinics with possible COVID symptoms were evaluated by School Health team members. Persons with demonstrated symptoms were isolated with parents/guardians of minors students being immediately contacted to report to the school to take their student home and seek medical attention. Written instructions provided by Akron Children's Hospital in cooperation with APS were provided to the guardian

Athletic testing of students and staff participating in the contact sports of basketball and wrestling were conducted by a qualified vendor using the PCR testing procedures 24-28 hours prior to a scheduled competition. Any resulting positive COVID cases resulted in required reporting and contact tracing to the local health department for Summit County as well as isolation and quarantine procedures for all team members.

- Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and eligible students: Akron Public Schools partnership with Akron Children's Hospital School health Services has and will continue to assist with vaccination clinics to services students and staff along with other area vaccine providers. Nursing team members have provided handwashing and respiratory etiquette instructions to students and teachers in the classroom setting through hands-on education modules.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies: APS implements an individualized approach for students with disabilities based on the student's IEP or Section 504 plan to ensure that staff are aware of their obligations under federal and state disability laws. Staff will consider any additional accommodations, adaptations and alternatives to prevention strategies in order to protect students, teachers, and staff. APS staff work closely with families of students with significant disabilities (including multiple disabilities and autism), students with disabilities who also have medical conditions, and students with social-emotional and/or mental health needs to determine appropriate safety measures based on each child's individual situation.



## PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC SERVICES

Describe how you will address continuity of services for students and staff, where needed, in the following areas:

1. Academic Services - Revised APS Board Policy 5200 - Attendance on October 12, 2020 and adopted new Board Policy 5460.03 - Graduation Flexibility for Class of 2021 on April 26, 2021. APS works directly with NEOLA to keep abreast of changes that should be considered for various board policies that support changes to all legal aspects necessary to support the district academic services for students. With all students at APS having a district assigned digital device that can be used within the classroom and during remote learning, APS continues to explore the issue on network access/internet activity through various vendors/community organizations/donations to obtain support through hotspots and direct connected internet services at a reduced or no cost to students/families.
2. Social-Emotional - To support the physical, social and emotional health of students the district adjusted its student athletic programming during the 2020-21 to meet COVID-19 compliance standards for each individual sports season. The district identified staff that were designated as "Connectors" and these individuals were assigned to regularly reach out to students who experienced difficulty making or maintaining connections in the digital environment at all grade levels. This pattern will continue to be used going forward and will be adjusted as necessary to meet student needs.
3. Mental Health - APS partners with several mental health providers who work on-site with students and parents. Students who are experiencing difficulty at school or at home may be referred for services by the parent or any staff member. APS, in collaboration with the United Way of Summit/Medina County, established an After-Hours Support Center. The Support Center operated 4 nights a week and every Saturday during the school year. The center will continue over the summer of 202, too. The center is staffed by credentialed educations and licensed counselors to provide on -demand support to learners and families.
4. Health - Under Health and Safety in Handbook - Continued partnership with Akron Children's Hospital School health Services is providing school clinic coverage for all school locations for the entire school day. This supports the students daily ehealth needs as well as triaging student issues that are related to acute illness. The partnership provides district nurses to support the health and well-being of all students and support their health through 504 Plans and IEP's for students who qualify. Clinic staff also has the support of the School Based Health Center and the ability to make sick referrals as well as scheduling well child visits. The program offers immunizations and clue vaccines to promote healthy students.
5. Food: See information below

### Meal Service

Meal service in school will transition with guidance from Summit County Public Health to any changes in the requirements due to COVID-19; however, all students will still be offered breakfast and lunch meals that are safe to eat. Child Nutrition will continue to follow safe food handling procedures, and these procedures are monitored by regular inspections of the kitchens by Summit County Public Health.

### Food Safety and Sanitation Procedures

- All kitchen staff will monitor temperatures and symptoms and not report to work if indicated.
- All kitchen staff will wear masks at all times during meal preparation and service until policy is changed for fully vaccinated staff.
- All kitchen staff will follow proper protocols for hand washing, safe food handling, cleaning, and sanitation.
- All kitchen surfaces will be properly cleaned and sanitized including cafeteria tables.

- Students will be provided the opportunity for frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing throughout the day. Hand sanitizers will be available in classrooms and high traffic areas for use prior to eating meals.
- Students will wear masks and social distance during the service of meals. Once students are seated and eating meals, masks will be removed and at least six feet between students will be maintained until closer distances are deemed safe.
- Students at the middle and high schools will not be required to touch the pin pads or enter a pin number to receive a meal.
- All food provided will be individually wrapped, single-serve portions.

#### **Water Fountains**

- Water fountains located in the individual classrooms are not to be used.
- Public hallway water fountains can be used. Each will be equipped with individual use cups to place water into and disposed of in a trash can.
- Staff and students are welcome to fill personal beverage containers using the public hallway water fountains. Personal containers are not to be shared and should be taken home daily for cleaning.

## PERIODIC REVIEW

1. Describe how you will conduct a review of your plan at least every 6 months.

Original plan was posted March 1, 2021 and is under review during Summer Review 2021. As new and continued CDC Guidance is updated along with information provided by the Ohio Department of Health and the Summit County Health Department members of the APS staff overseeing all areas listed above meet on a regular basis to share information that will allow a regular planned revision. Should the need arise to adjust or adopt new board policies or administrative guidelines, these areas will be presented by the Superintendent to the Board following standard procedures currently in place. This process will continue through September 2023 using the time frame of January and July as the 6 month time frame.

2. Describe how you will revise the plan as appropriate. See statement written above.

## PUBLIC INPUT

1. Describe how you will seek public input. - Under Questions and Answers from parents in Return to Learn -
  - APS offices Elementary and Secondary Education, Family/Community Engagement and Student Services have regularly planned outreach and service priorities to seek public input along with a variety of meetings, surveys and events that allows input from students, families and community members.
  - The Akron Board of Education adult and student members also provide input to APS staff and schools on a regular basis from their interactions throughout the community and community members can provide comments during regularly scheduled Board meetings.
  - The APS Communications Department monitors all district social media that provides direct comments for review of topics of importance provided by the public which can be addressed.
2. Describe how you will take public input into account when making revisions.

Input provided by the public will foster both internal/external conversions that will allow consideration of adjustments to all areas while being aware that compliance to various federal, state, local policies are included in the process.
3. *Review Period:* What revisions were made and why?

Adjustments have been made to all areas as changes to CDC guidance, state and local health orders were and are being altered on a regular basis. This will continue and APS will keep abreast going forward since Safe - In Person Instruction will need to meet the changes in the health, safety and community environments.

# Planning Framework for ESSER Strategic Investments



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (Post-Pandemic Education Stabilization Funds, or ESSER) are provided to help **safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools**, and **address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation’s students**.



Below are the eight primary topics for APS ESSER planning aligned with our board’s **AdvanceAPS** priorities and the **College & Career Academies of Akron Master Plans**.

1. Student Achievement
  - Student learning
  - High quality teaching
  - Whole-child supports
  - Expanded learning opportunities
2. Equity
3. Engagement
4. Operations & facilities
5. ESSER facilitation and impact
6. Safety
7. Research and innovation
8. Human capital and strategic system supports

Category	Topics	Strategic Investments
A	1. <b>Student Achievement:</b> Student Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pyramid of learning/multi-tiered system of support                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Targeted and intensive intervention (e.g., math, writing labs, etc.)</li> <li>○ Early childhood strategies to accelerate learning (e.g., K-3 focus)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Student success plans (i.e., AVID Example)</li> <li>● Expansion of student supports &amp; services</li> </ul>
	1. <b>Student Achievement:</b> High Quality Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inquiry based learning using culturally responsive practices</li> <li>● Expansion of higher-level courses to enhance access and equity</li> <li>● Class size reduction at all elementary schools</li> <li>● Instructional Coherence / Alignment Planning</li> <li>● Strategic communications re: vision, initiatives and goals</li> </ul>
	1. <b>Student Achievement:</b> Whole Child Supports and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Positive behavior supports</li> <li>● Restorative practices training</li> <li>● Enhanced multilingual supports</li> <li>● Strategic investments to support student attendance</li> </ul>

	Social Emotional Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded partnerships for student services (e.g., working with Children’s Hospital on ideas for expanded behavioral / social emotional supports)</li> </ul>
	<b>1. Student Achievement:</b> Expanded Learning Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional extracurriculars/clubs /activities</li> <li>Student and staff exposure initiatives: adult externships, experiences, work-based learning, youth employment, college and career exploration and discovery</li> <li>Expanded learning network to extend learning after school and summer (e.g., third semester, summer youth employment)</li> <li>Student leadership training and development</li> <li>Community student support grants</li> <li>Early childhood expansion and exposure planning – ConnectAPS</li> </ul>
	<b>2. Equity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEI training and development plan</li> <li>Culturally responsive practices</li> <li>Equity audits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o APS Human Resources Dept.</li> <li>o APS Business Affairs Dept.</li> <li>o APS Communications/Community Engagement departments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>3. Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APS communications strategy development</li> <li>Development of an engagement strategy 2.0</li> <li>APS Family Resource centers</li> <li>Family academies</li> <li>Stakeholder advisory council</li> <li>Student advisory team</li> <li>CCAA partnership development 2.0</li> <li>CCAA stakeholder feedback plan</li> </ul>
B	<b>4. Operations/ Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transportation pilots (at select / criteria-aligned locations)</li> <li>Functional physical plant assessment (re: to support master facilities planning)</li> <li>Health and safety improvements (HVAC, etc.)</li> <li>Broadband maintenance (aligned with SY 2020 wireless hotspot costs)</li> </ul>
	<b>5. ESSER Facilitation and Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APS Finance Office supports for ESSER facilitation</li> <li>Project management support for strategic implementation and monitoring of ESSER initiatives</li> <li>Financial Planning and Forecasting for General/Building Expenditures</li> </ul>
	<b>6. Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention of youth violence</li> <li>COVID supplies, materials and targeted school-based supports</li> </ul>
C	<b>7. Research and Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superintendent’s campus and culture infusion grants</li> <li>Learning accelerator grants for tier III schools</li> <li>Data and research best practice (e.g. hosting strategic data fellows)</li> <li>Key performance indicators (dashboard)</li> </ul>

D	<b>8. Human Capital and Strategic System Supports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APS strategy crosswalk / organizational audit</li> <li>• Strategic contract management</li> <li>• Leadership / team development &amp; training</li> <li>• APS Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)</li> <li>• Pace 2.0</li> <li>• Great leader’s pipeline</li> <li>• Faculty, staff and administrator’s professional learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inquiry-based instruction</li> <li>○ Learning intentions</li> <li>○ Continuous improvement</li> <li>○ SIP protocols 2.0</li> <li>○ Culturally responsive practices</li> <li>○ SEL within instruction</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### Timeline for Plan Review, Feedback, and Approval

Date	Topic	Details
July 26, 2021	BOE meeting update	ESSER categories and key initiatives in APS
August	BOE feedback via instructional policy and finance committee and supt/ board member communications	ESSER categories and key initiatives in APS
September	BOE meeting update via superintendent update with year one planned expenditures	Year one plan and update on detailed three year initiatives, goals and finance update
October	Board feedback via Instructional Policy Committee, Finance Committee and Supt./Board member communications Parent/Community feedback via survey/feedback portal	Initiatives, goals, metrics/ milestones for SY22
November	BOE meeting presentation via CFO update	SY 2021-22: initiatives metrics and financial forecast summary
January	BOE update via instructional policy/finance committee update	Progress reporting on year one goals and objectives
February	Board meeting update via superintendent’s update	
April	Board briefing on the full ESSER plan within the instructional policy committee and finance committee meetings	Full three-year ESSER plan

May	Board feedback via instructional policy committee, finance committee and supt./board member communications parent/community feedback via survey/feedback portal	Full three-year ESSER plan
May 23rd	BOE presentation via superintendent's update	Full three-year plan

**ARP ESSER Budget as Submitted at the Legal Level of Control**

<b>ARP ESSER Budget as Submitted 8/20/21</b>	
Salaries & Wages	34,700,128.53
Fringe Benefits	9,934,300.32
Purchased Services	14,367,200.00
Supplies	31,284,900.00
Capital Outlay	2,599,847.59
Other	2,468,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,354,876.44</b>